

This morning, Mayor Michael B. Coleman declared a Citywide Snow Emergency. This afternoon, the Mayor activated the City's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to assist in the coordination of services to residents affected by winter storms and widespread power outages. All relevant City Departments are working together with the Divisions of Police and Fire, the Franklin County EMA, Red Cross, COTA and other partners. The Columbus Division of Police is also helping coordinate regional efforts to serve families in partnership with the EMA.

"We are proud to see our team and residents pulling together to watch out for our friends and neighbors during this storm," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "We will have our Emergency Operations Center open 24 hours until further notice to coordinate services and shelter for residents in need."

The City will offer overnight emergency shelter at the following locations:

1. Barnett Recreation Center, 1184 Barnett, 645-3065
2. Douglas Recreation Center, 1250 Windsor Ave., 645-7407
3. Gillie Senior Center, 2100 Morse Road, 645-3106
4. Indian Mound Recreation Center, 3901 Parsons Avenue, 645-3224
5. Westgate Recreation Center, 455 W. Westgate Ave., 645-3264
6. Whetstone Recreation Center, 3923 N. High Street, 645-3217

These facilities will be open to the public.

Families will need to bring sleeping bags and food.

The Red Cross will be operating 3 emergency centers for families.

These sites will offer food and beds.

They are located at:

1. The Ohio Expo Center (at the Rhodes Center, 717 East 17th Ave.) at the State Fairgrounds.
2. Reynoldsburg H.S. 6699 E. Livingston Ave.
3. Central Crossing H.S. 4501 Big Run Rd. South

COTA will set aside transportation options overnight to help transport families in need to shelter. While a Level 2 Snow Emergency is declared all fares are free.

While City Snow Warriors continue to work 12-hour shifts to clear snow and ice from the streets, the Mayor encourages families to only drive if absolutely necessary and to take great caution on the roads.

Emergency Operations Center - for citizens: 614-645-4466

Emergency Operations Center - for media: 614-645-4465